ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Sixteenth Annual Session

—OF THE—

HOPEWELL

OLD-SCHOOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Nazareth Church, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.

October 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1900.

OFFICERS

L. M. WIMBERLEY, Moderator, - VERNON, ALA.

J. C. CHANDLER, Clerk, - - BELL, "

The next session of this Association will be held with Little Hope church, ten miles northwest of Fayette, C. H., Lamar county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 3d Sunday in October 1901.

Courier Print: Vernon, Ala.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Sixteenth Annual Session of the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association Convened With Nazareth Church on Friday Before the Third Sunday in October 1900.

1. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder S. F. Moore, from 1st John, 3d ch, and 1st v, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not."

2. After intermission, the delegates reassembled in the church house, called the names of the churches and enrolled the names of the delegates. [See table.]

3. Elected L. M. Wimberley moderator, and J. C. Chandler clerk.

4. Opened the door of the Association for newly constituted churches.

5. Appointed committee on arrangement, to-wit: Wm. Davis, W. R. Brown, R. K. Malone with the Moderator and Clerk.

6. Appointed committee on finance, to-wit: S. H. Hankins and W. R. Utley.

7. Appointed committee on preaching, to-wit: C. A. Harris, B. T. Wheat, H. M. Bankston, J. F. Davis, S. G. Hamilton, T. J. Moore, G. W. Dodson, G. J. Northcutt, H. A. Brock, A. T. Chandler, and S. H. Hankins.

8. Appointed G. W. Berry to write a letter of correspondence.

9. Arranged union meetings as follows: 1st district will meet with Nazareth church, on Friday before the 2d Sunday in September 1901. The 2d district, with Emmaus church, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July 1901.

10. Called for correspondence from Sister Associations and they responded as follows: From Lost Creek a letter by her messengers, Elder J. S. Kitchens, Abe Robards, and Brother Aldridge. From Pilgrim's Rest a bundle of minutes by her messengers, G. W. Miller, N. C. Latner, J. M. Stapp, J. E. Landcaster, and Elder J. C. Nabors. From Buttahatchie a bundle of minutes by her messengers, Elder J. B. Dean, M. M. Mordecai, D. Yarbrough. and Thomas Moore. From Little Hope a bundle of minutes by her messenger, Elder S. F. Moore. Five Mile Creek, Elder T. M. Harris.

11. Adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Saturday Morning 9 O'clock Oct. 20, 1900.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Elder G. R. Trawick.

12. Called the roll and a quorum was present.

13. Received correspondents from Sister Associations.

14. Called for bill of arrangements; adopted last years minutes and discharged the committee.

15. Committee on preaching reported that Elders J. B. Dean and J. S. Kitchens preach before noon, and C. H. Davis in the afternoon

16. Invited visiting brethren in the ministry to seats with us.

17. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum of the Association.

18. Appointed correspondents to Sister Associations as follows:—To Pilgrim's Rest, B. T. Wheat, R. K. Malone, Wm. Davis, H. M. Bankston; To Lost Creek, W. R. Brown, W. R. Utley, G. J. Northcutt, H. A. Brock, and J. W. Brock; To Buttahatchie, A. T. Chandler. S. H. Hankins, A. J. Brown, J. C. Chandler, G. W. Berry, L. M. Wimberley, and H. M. Bankston; To Five Mile Creek, Wm. Davis, H. M. Bankston, S. G. Hamilton, C. H. Davis, and S. J. Norris; To Little Hope, Wm. Davis, L. M. Wimberley, W. R. Utley, and S. G. Hamilton.

19. Agreed that the next meeting of this body be with Little Hope church, five miles northwest of Covin on the Southern railroad, Lamar county, Alabama.

20. Elected J. C. Chandler treasurer.

21. Called on committee on finance, which reported $15.50 contributions this year, in the hands of the treasurer $1.86; total $17.36.

22. Appointed the clerk to superintend the printing of the minute; that he have 400 copies printed, and reserve a sufficient number for correspondence and distribute the remainder among the churches.

23. Compensated the clerk $8 for his services.

24. Requested the Moderator to tender the thanks of this body to the brethren, sisters and friends in this community for the kindness and hospitality shown us while among them.

25. Appointed brethren to preach on Sunday as follows:—Elders S. F. Moore, T. M. Harris and L. M. Wimberley to close.

26. Called for corresponding letter; presented, read and adopted.

27. Opened the door for promiscuous business. A letter of dismissal was called for by Liberty Hill church, for the sake of convenience, which was granted.

28. Read the minute for correction.

29. Adjourned to the time and place of our next session.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, Moderator.
J. C. CHANDLER, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, October 20, 1900.

The Hopewell Old School Baptist Association in Her Sixteenth Annual Session, to Her Sister Associations With Whom She Corresponds: Sendeth Christian Love and Fellowship:

Dear Sisters:—We are passing through another seemingly harmonious conference with the various churches of this Association, together with the corresponding messengers, who were gladly received among us; and we desire a continuance of the same, and, as evidence thereof, we have appointed some of our brethren to meet with you at your various sessions. Then,

dear brethren, pray for us, and may the God of all grace bless and save us all.

The next session of this body will be held with Little Hope church, Lamar county, Alabama, five miles northwest of Covin, on the Southern railroad, where we hope to meet you in friendly correspondence again.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, Moderator.
J. C. CHANDLER, Clerk.

Corresponding Associations Meet As Follows:

Pilgrim's Rest, First Sunday in October, five miles east of Pickensville. Little Hope, with Union church, Second Sunday in Sept., five miles south of Pearson, Alabama, on the M. & O., railroad. Lost Creek, First Sunday in October, five miles northeast of Carbon Hill, Alabama, on the K. C., M. & B., railroad. Five Mile Creek, Third Sunday in September, ten miles northeast of Jasper, on the K. C., M. & B., railroad.

The brethren appointed to preach on Sunday appeared in the order of their names, and preached to a large and attentive audience. May the Lord dispose of the seed sown according to His will. CLERK.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, or dead since the last Association.

3 The members thus chosen and convened shall be known as the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association, which shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in our Union, but shall merely be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches; but the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the Union which shall violate or deviate from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to

three messengers, and should any church fail or neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reason of such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Union who shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received, and the reception thereof manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand

6 The Association when convened shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum which it is authorized to form for itself.

7. The Association shall appoint a Moderator from among its members, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be observed and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it; also a clerk shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her lettter, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not; in which case the Association shall take it under consideration and give its advise.

9. Queries which immediately concern the Union or the state of the church at large, when sent by a particular church as from them, or handed in by proper motion and seconded shall be taken up and decided on as soon as opportunity will permit.

10 The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of her messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys by him received.

11. The clerk shall keep a file of the minutes of each year's proceedings, which shall serve as a record for the Association.

12. The Association in all cases shall be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. The Association shall correspond with other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association shall at her first session appoint a committee consisting of one from each church represented (ministers excepted) whose duty it shall be to arrange preaching until the next Association is organized, and if advised by the Association, appoint a brother to write a circular letter for the next year, which rule shall be observed at every session thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two-thirds of the churches composing the Association may deem it necessary.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, signed by the Moderator and attested by the clerk, before the Association rises.

18. Resolved, That we will not hold in our Union any church, or churches, who hold in their fellowship any member or members who will not renounce every secret order or clan—political or religious—whether past, present or to come, or that claims or expresses by word or act any interest therein, directly or indirectly, whether for oath or honor's sake, or personal interest or paternal advantage of such, whether at home or abroad, sick or well, in adversity or prosperity, or in any condition, or for any cause not herein mention; we must not, we cannot, we will not fellowship or commune with them.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. But one person shall speak at a time, and shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.
3. No person shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.
4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time and on the same subject, the first shall have the preference.
5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing reasonable time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced immediately

7. No person shall depart from the services of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any motion be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with.

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same liberty of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved as the Association may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH WITH SCRIPTURAL PROOF.

1 We believe in one only true and living God; The Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are are one Proof: "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God; and the word was God." John 1:1 "For there are three that bear record in heaven—the Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one." John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: "For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2d Peter 1:21. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2d Peter 3:16-17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace according to the foreknowledge of God, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. Proof: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Eph.

1:4. "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them H also called and whom He called them He justified, and whom He justified them He also glorified." Rom. 8:30.

4. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is incapable of recovering himself there from. Proof; "No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." John 6:44. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots? Then ye may also do good that are accustomed to do evil." Jer. 13:3.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Proof: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2d Cor. 5:21.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. Proof: "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." John 10:28. "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye appear also with Him in glory." Co. 3:3-4.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Proof: "For the promis unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39. "Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2d Tim. 1:9.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgment, and the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Proof: "Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in the which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28. "Because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world, by that man whom He hath ordained." Acts 17:31.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion in water is the mode, and that persons administering the ordinances, who differ from the foregoing either in faith or practice are by us not regarded as legal. Proof: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that

Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove and abode upon him and a voice came from heaven which said. 'Thou art my beloved son; in Thee I am well pleased.'" Luke 3:21-22. "Jesus took bread and blessed and brake it and gave it to His deciples and said: 'Take, eat, this is my body.' And He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying: 'Drink ye all of it.'" Matt 26:26 27.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery. Proof: "The Holy Ghost said separate me, Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have sent them, and when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them they sent them away." Acts 13:2-3. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1st Tim. 4:14.

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune at the Lords table, nor can we, as an Association, acknowledge as valid the administration of any other denomination, be their profession or mode what it may, Proof: "We have an alter whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle." Acb. 10:13. "From the top of the rocks I see Him, and from the hills I behold Him; lo, the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned among the nations."

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Annual Meetings.	Sabbath Meetings.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total.	Contributions.
1st District.												
Nazareth	J. C. Nabors	*S. J. Norris, *G. R Trawick, C. A. Harris	Sept 3	2				1		1	44	$2 50
Pleasant Ridge		B. T. Wheat, W. A. Dyer	July 4	4			3				11	1.00
Zion	J. M Carver	†Wm. Davis, J. D, Springer, R. K. Malone	Aug 3	3				2		2	18	2.00
Mt. Zion		Represented by Contribution										.50
Liberty Hill	W. R. Brown	*W R Brown, †W R Utley, S. G Hamilton	Sept 4	4		2		1			30	1 75
Harmony	C. H. Davis	T. J. Moore									18	1 25
2d District												
Hopewell	C. H. Davis	*C H. Davis, *G. W. Berry	Aug 3	3	1	7	3	1			33	1 50
Union		G. J. Northcutt	Aug 1	1							36	2.00
Little Hope	J. W. Brock	A. J. Brown, H. A. Brock, *J. W. Brock	Aug 2	2		1					21	1 90
Emmaus	L. M. Wimberley.	*L. M. Wimberley, J. C. & A. T. Chandler	July 4	4	2						21	1.50
New Hope		S. H. Hankins									2	50

* Ordained Ministers. † Licentiates.

Received of J. C. Chandler, $7.00 for printing 400 copies of this minute.

T. J. Young